

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING AND ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL CLIMATE GOALS

WHEREAS, metropolitan Washington is already experiencing the serious and costly impacts of a changing climate on the region's residents, businesses, and public infrastructure. Extreme weather events, in particular extreme heat, directly impact affordability and accessibility in the region, including, significantly increasing energy costs for cooling and heating buildings and homes, requiring local governments to plan, implement, and fund an increased number of public safety responses for extreme temperature events, slowing passenger and freight rail transit on WMATA, CSX, VRE, MARC, and Amtrak during extreme heat, increasing the frequency of intense rainfall and localized flooding that poses a risk to public health and increases infrastructure costs, increasing injuries and fatalities, especially among more vulnerable populations in the region due to extreme heat or cold, contributing to sustained drought conditions and its impact on water supplies and local agriculture and food systems; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors in Resolution R60-08 adopted the National Capital Region Climate Change Report and its recommendations in 2008, including goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent below business as usual by 2012, 20 percent below the region's 2005 baseline by 2020, and 80 percent below the 2005 baseline by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors in Resolution R18-09 established the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) in 2009 to collaboratively work toward the report's goals; and

WHEREAS, COG and its members were recognized by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) in 2019 as a U.S. Metro-Scale Climate Leader and CEEPC became a GCoM Signatory committing to follow global best practices in climate planning; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors in Resolution R45-2020 endorsed an interim 2030 climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas reduction below 2005, as recommended by the CEEPC and directing CEEPC to conduct a mid-point evaluation of the progress towards these goals and make recommendations for any new actions needed; and

WHEREAS, the CEEPC adopted the Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan (2030 CEAP) in 2020 to aid COG members' actions towards meeting the 2030 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors endorsed resolutions including Resolution R40-2022 recognizing Electric Vehicle (EV) planning and deployment, Resolution R36-2023 endorsing a goal of 250,000 solar rooftops deployed in the region by 2030, and Resolution R14-2024 endorsing a regional goal of maintaining a minimum regional tree canopy coverage of 50 percent, strategies all aimed at reducing GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, the region has within the past several years seen a significant increase in the construction and operation of data centers that consume an inordinate amount of electricity and

COG's 2025 Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) addresses data center challenges and solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Midcourse Review Report tracks progress towards these regional climate goals and shows that while local governments have implemented climate action and a lot of progress has been made, accelerated effort is needed to attain the region's 2030 goals. Without expanded climate action and a shift in some trends, the region is unlikely to meet its climate goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. The COG Board recognizes the significant costs of climate change and extreme weather events to the region's economy and affordability, public safety and wellbeing, and infrastructure and sustainability.
2. The COG Board reaffirms its climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030, including a commitment to Electric Vehicle (EV) planning and deployment, 250,000 solar rooftops, and 50 percent minimum tree canopy coverage across the Metropolitan Washington region.
3. The COG Board accepts CEEPC's Midcourse Review Report on the progress made by the region towards its 2030 goal of reducing GHG gases by 50 percent below 2005 levels; and encourages COG to strengthen the connections between climate, housing and transportation goals, exploring ways to address large load growth with a focus on data centers, and continue working with COG members to support local action
4. The COG Board recognizes COG member jurisdictions and all stakeholders will need to redouble their efforts between now and 2030 to implement the strategies outlined in the 2030 CEAP and the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), especially recognizing the scale back of federal government actions and support in this regard. The COG Board urges members to accelerate and expand action in the areas of clean energy, clean transportation, zero energy buildings, and support the regional clean economy.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT Resolution R33-2026 was approved by the COG Board of Director on September 9, 2026 Kayla Joyner Government Relations Associate